

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2076

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to repeal the requirement that States provide for voter registration by mail and to require applicants for voter registration to provide a Social Security number and actual proof of United States citizenship, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 1997

Mr. GOODLATTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on House Oversight

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## A BILL

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to repeal the requirement that States provide for voter registration by mail and to require applicants for voter registration to provide a Social Security number and actual proof of United States citizenship, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR STATES TO**  
2 **PROVIDE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION BY**  
3 **MAIL.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a) of the National Voter  
5 Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–2) is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding “and” at the  
8 end;

9 (2) by striking paragraph (2); and

10 (3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-  
11 graph (2).

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO UNI-  
13 FORM MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—(1) The Na-  
14 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg  
15 et seq.) is amended by striking section 9.

16 (2) Section 7(a)(6)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
17 1973gg–5(a)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “assistance—  
18 ” and all that follows and inserting the following: “assist-  
19 ance a voter registration application form which meets the  
20 requirements described in section 5(c)(2) (other than sub-  
21 paragraph (A)), unless the applicant, in writing, declines  
22 to register to vote;”.

23 (c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) The  
24 National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.  
25 1973gg et seq.) is amended by striking section 6.

1       (2) Section 8(a)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–  
 2 6(a)(5)) is amended by striking “5, 6, and 7” and insert-  
 3 ing “5 and 7”.

4 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING APPLICANTS REGISTERING TO VOTE TO**  
 5 **PROVIDE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMA-**  
 6 **TION.**

7       (a) SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(c)(2) of the Na-  
 9 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.  
 10 1973gg–3(c)(2)) is amended—

11           (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
 12 paragraph (D);

13           (B) by striking the period at the end of  
 14 subparagraph (E) and inserting “; and”; and

15           (C) by adding at the end the following new  
 16 subparagraph:

17           “(F) shall require the applicant to provide  
 18 the applicant’s Social Security number.”.

19       (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
 20 5(c)(2)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–  
 21 3(c)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting after “subpara-  
 22 graph (C)” the following: “, or the information de-  
 23 scribed in subparagraph (F)”.

24       (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
 25 by this section shall take effect January 1, 1998,

1 and shall apply with respect to applicants registering  
2 to vote in elections for Federal office on or after  
3 such date.

4 (b) ACTUAL PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP.—

5 (1) REGISTRATION WITH APPLICATION FOR  
6 DRIVER'S LICENSE.—Section 5(c) of the National  
7 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–  
8 3(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following  
9 new paragraph:

10 “(3) The voter registration portion of an application  
11 for a State motor vehicle driver's license shall not be con-  
12 sidered to be completed unless the applicant provides to  
13 the appropriate State motor vehicle authority proof that  
14 the applicant is a citizen of the United States.”.

15 (2) REGISTRATION WITH VOTER REGISTRATION  
16 AGENCIES.—Section 7(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
17 1973gg–5(a)) is amended by adding at the end the  
18 following new paragraph:

19 “(8) A voter registration application received by a  
20 voter registration agency shall not be considered to be  
21 completed unless the applicant provides to the agency  
22 proof that the applicant is a citizen of the United States.”.

23 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
24 8(a)(5)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–  
25 6(a)(5)(A)) is amended by striking the semicolon

1 and inserting the following: “, including the require-  
2 ment that the applicant provide proof of citizen-  
3 ship;”.

4 **SEC. 3. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN REGISTRANTS FROM OFFI-**  
5 **CIAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(d) of the National Voter  
7 Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(d)) is  
8 amended—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-  
10 graph (4); and

11 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the follow-  
12 ing new paragraph:

13 “(3)(A) At the option of the State, a State may re-  
14 move the name of a registrant from the official list of eligi-  
15 ble voters in elections for Federal office on the ground that  
16 the registrant has changed residence if—

17 “(i) the registrant has not voted or appeared to  
18 vote (and, if necessary, correct the registrar’s record  
19 of the registrant’s address) in an election during the  
20 period beginning on the day after the date of the  
21 second previous general election for Federal office  
22 held prior to the date the confirmation notice de-  
23 scribed in subparagraph (B) is sent and ending on  
24 the date of such notice;

1           “(ii) the registrant has not voted or appeared to  
2           vote (and, if necessary, correct the registrar’s record  
3           of the registrant’s address) in any of the first two  
4           general elections for Federal office held after the  
5           confirmation notice described in subparagraph (B) is  
6           sent; and

7           “(iii) during the period beginning on the date  
8           the confirmation notice described in subparagraph  
9           (B) is sent and ending on the date of the second  
10          general election for Federal office held after the date  
11          such notice is sent, the registrant has failed to notify  
12          the State in response to the notice that the reg-  
13          istrant did not change his or her residence, or  
14          changed residence but remained in the registrar’s ju-  
15          risdiction.

16          “(B) A confirmation notice described in this subpara-  
17          graph is a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card,  
18          sent by forwardable mail, on which a registrant may state  
19          his or her current address, together with information con-  
20          cerning how the registrant can continue to be eligible to  
21          vote if the registrant has changed residence to a place out-  
22          side the registrar’s jurisdiction and a statement that the  
23          registrant may be removed from the official list of eligible  
24          voters if the registrant does not respond to the notice (dur-  
25          ing the period described in subparagraph (A)(iii)) by stat-

1 ing that the registrant did not change his or her residence,  
 2 or changed residence but remained in the registrar’s juris-  
 3 diction.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(i)(2) of  
 5 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(d)) is amended by insert-  
 6 ing “or subsection (d)(3)” after “subsection (d)(2)”.

7 **SEC. 4. PERMITTING STATE TO REQUIRE VOTERS TO**  
 8 **PRODUCE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PRIOR**  
 9 **TO VOTING.**

10 (a) PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION.—Section 8 of  
 11 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.  
 12 1973gg–6) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-  
 14 section (k); and

15 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the follow-  
 16 ing new subsection:

17 “(j) PERMITTING STATES TO REQUIRE VOTERS TO  
 18 PRODUCE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION.—A State may require  
 19 an individual to produce a valid photographic identifica-  
 20 tion before receiving a ballot for voting in an election for  
 21 Federal office.”.

22 (b) SIGNATURE.—Section 8 of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
 23 1973gg–6), as amended by subsection (a), is further  
 24 amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-  
2           section (l); and

3           (2) by inserting after subsection (j) the follow-  
4           ing new subsection:

5           “(k) PERMITTING STATES TO REQUIRE VOTERS TO  
6           PROVIDE SIGNATURE.—A State may require an individual  
7           to provide the individual’s signature (in the presence of  
8           an election official at the polling place) before receiving  
9           a ballot for voting in an election for Federal office, other  
10          than an individual who is unable to provide a signature  
11          because of illiteracy or disability.”.

12   **SEC. 5. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT THAT STATES PERMIT**  
13                   **REGISTRANTS CHANGING RESIDENCE TO**  
14                   **VOTE AT POLLING PLACE FOR FORMER AD-**  
15                   **DRESS.**

16          Section 8(e)(2) of the National Voter Registration  
17   Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(e)(2)) is amended—

18           (1) by striking “(2)(A)” and inserting “(2)”;  
19          and

20           (2) by striking “election, at the option of the  
21          registrant—” and all that follows and inserting the  
22          following: “election shall be permitted to correct the  
23          voting records for purposes of voting in future elec-  
24          tions at the appropriate polling place for the current  
25          address and, if permitted by State law, shall be per-



1       mitted to vote in the present election, upon con-  
2       firmation by the registrant of the new address by  
3       such means as are required by law.”.

4   **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5       The amendments made by this Act shall apply with  
6       respect to elections for Federal office occurring after De-  
7       cember 1997.

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